



NEWS RELEASE

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NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATORS SHARPEN SKILLS AT FIRST-EVER TEACHER LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES

Nearly 50 Nebraska teachers and guidance counselors recently attended the state's first-ever Career and Technical Education Leadership Academy and Beginning Teacher Institute conferences for new and veteran educators.

Teachers attending the two conferences had a common focus: Teaching students the skills and knowledge vital for college and career success.

The Career Education Beginning Teacher Institute provided strategies to help new teachers improve the quality and rigor of their classroom instruction. Teachers were encouraged to build a collaborative statewide network of educators for future support.

"The Beginning Teacher Institute reenergized me for the school year," said Sarah Heideman, Lawrence-Nelson High School agricultural education teacher. "It made it even more clear how important Career and Technical Education is in Nebraska. The great things that are happening in classrooms across our state need to be lionized."

Anne Schmall, Scottsbluff Middle School family and consumer sciences teacher, said the teaching skills she developed and practiced at the workshop would make her an even more effective teacher. Schmall said connecting with other Career and Technical Education teachers was helpful. "I know that I am going into the upcoming school year better prepared"

The second professional development workshop, the Career Education Leadership Academy, focused on developing the leadership potential of experienced educators by providing the resources and instructional strategies needed to ensure students are career and college ready when they graduate.

A key objective of the Career Education Leadership Academy was to develop a shared vision and to help participants gain new perspectives on how to communicate with government leaders and state legislators about career education, college and career readiness, workforce development and economic development.

Veteran educators developed a 2012-2013 individual plan-of-action with strategies for addressing the challenges their career education program faces in their school district and community to better ensure that students graduate college and career ready.

Lee Kallstrom, an Omaha North Magnet High School teacher in engineering technologies, said the academy provided “useful information packed into a usable, doable workshop” that would benefit his students, staff and the school’s administration.

Kristyn Harms, Norris High School agriculture, food and natural resources teacher, said the academy gave her an opportunity to expand her leadership skills.

Workshop presenters included Jill Casten, who has a doctorate of philosophy in Leadership Education and represented the American Farm Bureau Federation; Ryan Foor, who holds a doctorate of philosophy in Agriculture and Extension Education and is a University of Arizona assistant agricultural professor; and, Nebraska Department of Education career and technical education staff Cory Epler, Matt Kreifels and Carol Ringenberg.

For more information about Nebraska Career Education and the Nebraska Career Education Model, visit <http://www.education.ne.gov/NCE/>.

The following educators attended the Career Education Beginning Teacher Institute:

Susan Biba of Fillmore Central High School
Bill Chase of Allen High School
Lesley Dugan of North Loup-Scotia High School
Thomas Dux of Mead High School
AnnaLisa Estrela of Ashland-Greenwood High School
Kurt Heideman of Sutton High School
Sarah Heideman of Lawrence-Nelson High School
Julie Hendricks of High Plains Community High School
Brent Jarosz of Norfolk High School
Sarah Knutson of McCook High School
Jeff Maas of Lincoln Northeast High School
Leah McClure of Centennial Jr./Sr. High School
John Robison of Lewiston Consolidated High School
Anne Schmall of Scottsbluff Middle School
Brandon Thoene of Schuyler Central High School
Aaron Wilson of Neligh-Oakdale Jr./Sr. High School

The following educators attended the Career Education Leadership Academy:

Jack Bangert of Omaha South Magnet High School
Ben Brachle of Millard Horizon High School
Roger Campbell of Papillion-La Vista South High School
Amy Copper of Loup County High School
Roni Dorsey of Fullerton High School
Amber Endres of Hartington High School
Kristen Evans of Norfolk High School
Tennille Gifford of Kearney High School
Robyn Graham of Humphrey High School
Mallory Gregory of Waverly High School
Melissa Hansen of Westside High School
Lori Harding of Wakefield High School
Katie Harmon of Westside High School

Kristyn Harms of Norris High School
Lee Kallstrom of Omaha North Magnet High School
Allison Kreifels of Wahoo High School
Monty Larsen of Stuart High School
Brenda Leggiadro of Lincoln Public Schools
Stephanie Mann of Crofton High School
Tonya Mortensen of Medicine Valley High School
Jan Osborn of Sargent Public School
Gregg Ratliff of Omaha Westside High School
Mike Rogers of Millard Horizon High School
Charmain Satree of Lincoln North Star High School
Sarah Schau of Westside High School
Lori Staab of Sutherland Public Schools
Jonie Ternes of Boys Town Career Center
Kurt VanDeWalle of Fillmore Central High School
Kristin Vest of Kearney High School
Tracy Way of Lincoln Southwest High School